

**FILED**

**DECEMBER 3, 2009**

KAREN S. MITCHELL  
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
AMARILLO DIVISION

LEE CRAYTON,

Petitioner,

V.

RICK THALER, Director,  
Texas Department of Criminal Justice,  
Correctional Institutions Division,

Respondent.

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2:09-CV-0240

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION TO DISMISS**  
**FOR FAILURE TO PAY FILING FEE OR, ALTERNATIVELY,**  
**FOR WANT OF PROSECUTION**

Petitioner, a state prisoner confined in the Clements Unit in Potter County, Texas, has filed with this Court a Petition for a Writ of Habeas Corpus by a Person in State Custody. Petitioner did not submit with his habeas application any payment to satisfy the requisite filing fee, nor did he submit a certified *in forma pauperis* data sheet from the institution in which he is confined to support his Request to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis*. On September 25, 2009, this Court ordered petitioner to submit the data sheet, pay the filing fee, or submit proper documentation evidencing the authorization of the disbursement of the requisite funds for the fee. Petitioner was warned that his failure to properly supplement or pay the filing fee would result in an immediate recommendation for the dismissal of this case without further notice. As of this date, no fee or proper supplementation has been submitted to this Court.

Petitioner has been given ample opportunity to pay the filing fee, submit a data sheet as proof of his indigency, or provide evidence of his authorization for the disbursement of the filing fee.

Petitioner has failed to follow the Court's direct order. Further, petitioner has not communicated with the Court in this case in any way since the filing of his petition on September 18, 2009.

Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure allows a court to dismiss an action *sua sponte* for failure to prosecute or for failure to comply with the federal rules or any court order. *Larson v. Scott*, 157 F.3d 1030, 1031 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1988). "This authority [under Rule 41(b)] flows from the court's inherent power to control its docket and prevent undue delays in the disposition of pending cases." *Boudwin v. Graystone Ins. Co., Ltd.*, 756 F.2d 399, 401 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1985) (citing *Link v. Wabash R.R. Co.*, 370 U.S. 626, 82 S.Ct. 1386 (1962)). Petitioner has failed to comply with a direct order of the Court. Further, petitioner has neglected his case to the extent it warrants dismissal. Petitioner's habeas application should be dismissed for failure to pay the requisite filing fee in this case or, alternatively, for want of prosecution due to petitioner's failure to comply with this Court's Order.

#### RECOMMENDATION

It is the RECOMMENDATION of the United States Magistrate Judge to the United States District Judge that the habeas application filed by petitioner be DISMISSED.

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR SERVICE

The United States District Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Report and Recommendation to each party by the most efficient means available.

IT IS SO RECOMMENDED.

ENTERED this 3rd day of December, 2009.

  
CLINTON E. AVERITTE  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

**\* NOTICE OF RIGHT TO OBJECT \***

Any party may object to these proposed findings, conclusions and recommendation. In the event a party wishes to object, they are hereby NOTIFIED that the deadline for filing objections is eleven (11) days from the date of filing as indicated by the “entered” date directly above the signature line. Service is complete upon mailing, Fed. R. Civ. P. 5(b)(2)(B), or transmission by electronic means, Fed. R. Civ. P. 5(b)(2)(D). When service is made by mail or electronic means, three (3) days are added after the prescribed period. Fed. R. Civ. P. 6(e). Therefore, any objections must be **filed on or before the fourteenth (14<sup>th</sup>) day after this recommendation is filed** as indicated by the “entered” date. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b); Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b); R. 4(a)(1) of Miscellaneous Order No. 6, as authorized by Local Rule 3.1, Local Rules of the United States District Courts for the Northern District of Texas.

Any such objections shall be made in a written pleading entitled “Objections to the Report and Recommendation.” Objecting parties shall file the written objections with the United States District Clerk and serve a copy of such objections on all other parties. A party’s failure to timely file written objections to the proposed findings, conclusions, and recommendation contained in this report shall bar an aggrieved party, except upon grounds of plain error, from attacking on appeal the unobjected-to proposed factual findings, legal conclusions, and recommendation set forth by the Magistrate Judge in this report and accepted by the district court. *See Douglass v. United Services Auto. Ass’n*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1428-29 (5th Cir. 1996); *Rodriguez v. Bowen*, 857 F.2d 275, 276-77 (5th Cir. 1988).